

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-79361/91
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 630587

(Australian Petty Patent)

(54) Title
IMPROVEMENTS IN VIDEO DRAW POKER MACHINES

International Patent Classification(s)

(51)⁰

(21) Application No. : 79361/91

(22) Application Date : 26.06.91

(43) Publication Date : 29.10.92

(45) Publication Date of Granted Application : 29.10.92

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(56) Prior Art Documents
AU 613484 34504/89 G07F 17/34
AU 628044 33126/89 G07F 17/34
AU 564355 71522/87 G07F 17/34

(57) Claim

1. A video draw poker machine of the kind described above the machine including a video screen the display on which is controlled by micro-processor/computer means, said micro-processor/computer means being programmed to display on the video screen a representation of a poker hand, manually operable means to enable a player to select certain of the cards displayed to be held, the programme thereafter substituting alternative cards for those not held and in the event of a winning poker hand being displayed the programme acting to display the back of a playing card and providing an indication of a win and an invitation to a player to "gamble" all or a part of the win, manually operable means permitting a player to accept an invitation to "gamble" or to take the win characterised in that in the event of the player accepting the invitation, operation of manually operable means enables the player to select any one of a number of possible "gambles" each being related to a different characteristic of the appearance of the face of the card, the back of which is displayed, further manually operable means enabling a player to make a prediction in relation to the selected gamble, and in the event of the player making a correct prediction the programme acting to record a credit to the player related to the "gamble" chosen.

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(12) PETTY PATENT APPLICATION
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. AU 199179361 A1
(10) Patent No. 630587

(54) Title
Improvements in video draw poker machines

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
G07F 017/32 G07F 017/34

(21) Application No: 199179361 (22) Date of Filing: 1991.06.26

(43) Publication Journal Date: 1992.10.29

(44) Accepted Journal Date: 1992.10.29

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630587

AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

PATENT REQUEST: PETTY PATENT

We, AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD., being the person(s) identified below as the Applicant, request the grant of a patent to the person identified below as the Nominated Person, for an invention described in the accompanying Petty complete specification.

Full application details follow.

Applicant: AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD.
a company incorporated under the laws of the
State of New South Wales

Address: 85-113 Dunning Avenue, Rosebery, New South
Wales, Australia

Nominated Person: AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD.
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Address: 85-113 Dunning Avenue, Rosebery, New South
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Invention Title: "Improvements in Video Draw Poker Machines"

Name(s) of Actual Inventor(s): Philip Clive Crouch

Address for service is: F.B. RICE & CO.,
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Attorney Code: RI

We are not an eligible person described in Section 33 - 36 of
the Act.

Drawing number recommended to accompany the abstract 1

Dated this 25th day of June 1991

AINS WORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD.

By: [Signature]
Registered Patent Attorney

TO: THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS,
AUSTRALIA

6022646 26/06/91

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AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

P/OO/OO8
Section 29 (1)
Regulation 3.1(2)

NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT
(To be filed before acceptance)

I/We GEOFFREY AINSWORTH
of 85-113 Dunning Avenue
Rosebery NSW 2018

being ~~the applicant~~ authorised by the applicant in respect of an application for
a patent for an invention entitled Improvements in Video Draw Poker
Machines

filed under Application No. 79361/91, state the following:-

Part 1 -- Must be completed for all applications.
The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent:

☐ ~~is/are the actual inventor(s)~~

or

☒ has, for the following reasons, gained entitlement from the actual inventor(s):
The actual inventor Philip Clive Crouch made the invention
during the course of his employment with the nominated
person.

~~Part 2 -- Must be completed if the application is a Convention application.~~
~~The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent is/are:~~

~~☐ the applicant(s) of the basic application(s) listed on the patent request form
or
☐ entitled to rely on the basic application(s) listed on the patent request form
by reason of the following:~~

~~Part 3 -- must be completed if the application was made under the PCT and
claims priority.~~

~~The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent is/are:~~

~~☐ the applicant(s) of the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8
of the PCT~~

~~or~~

~~☐ entitled to rely on the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8
of the PCT by reason of the following:~~

(continued over)

Part 4 - Must be completed if the application is a Convention application,
or the application was made under the PCT and the applicant made a
declaration under Article 8 of the PCT in respect of the basic application.
[] The basic application(s) listed on the patent request form/referred to in
the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT is/are the application(s) first
made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Status: _____

Group General Manager

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AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD.

ORIGINAL
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
PETTY PATENT

Invention Title:

IMPROVEMENTS IN VIDEO DRAW POKER MACHINES

The following statement is a full description of this invention
including the best method of performing it known to us:-

The present invention relates to improvements in video draw poker machines. Such machines include a video screen on which screen images are displayed, the images being controlled by software associated with a micro-processor/computer. In almost all cases such machines are coin operated.

A video draw poker machine of the kind (hereinafter referred to as "of the kind described") with which the present invention is concerned operates as follows:-

1. A player inserts coins into the machine or by some other method obtains credit on the machine.
2. The player commences the game by pressing a button (or a series of buttons). The button(s) indicates how much money is bet for the game and starts the game.
3. The machine displays 5 cards on the screen.
4. The player can then choose to hold any or all of these cards.
5. Cards not held are removed from the screen and replacement cards are "drawn".
6. The 5 cards displayed at the end of the "draw" are compared with the scorecard and winning hands are awarded a "win".

The "win" involves the payment or crediting of a prize according to a scoreboard displayed on the machine.

In some video draw poker machines currently in use a facility is provided enabling a player to "gamble" the "win" or a part thereof. The opportunity to "gamble" is effected by presenting to the player an appearance corresponding to the back of a playing card. The player is then invited to make a prediction related to the nature of the face of the card. Various types of "gamble" are currently in use.

In order to maintain the interest of players in the playing of draw poker video machines it is necessary for manufacturers of such machines to produce a succession of



machines each exhibiting novel features and the object of the present invention is to provide a machine having such a feature.

The present invention provides a video poker machine
5 which offers to a player a choice of a number of different "gambles". This is to be contrasted with existing machines in which each machine is set up to offer only a single kind of "gamble". In an embodiment of the present invention a player may be offered the choice of gambling
10 on the colour of the suit on the face of the card, the suit of the card or as to whether a card is of a high value or a low value, that is to say between a two and a seven or between a nine and an ace.

The present invention consists in a video draw poker
15 machine of the kind described above the machine including a video screen the display on which is controlled by micro-processor/computer means, said micro-processor/
computer means being ^{controlled by a programme} ~~programmed~~ to display on the video
screen a representation of a poker hand, manually operable
20 means to enable a player to select certain of the cards displayed to be held, the programme thereafter substituting alternative cards for those not held and in the event of a winning poker hand being displayed the programme acting to display the back of a playing card and
25 providing an indication of a "win" and an invitation to a player to "gamble" all or a part of the win, manually operable means permitting a player to accept an invitation to "gamble" or to take the win characterised in that in the event of the player accepting the invitation,
30 operation of manually operable means enables the player to select any one of a number of possible "gambles" each being related to a different characteristic of the appearance of the face of the card, the back of which is displayed, further manually operable means enabling a
35 player to make a prediction in relation to the selected



gamble, and in the event of the player making a correct prediction the programme acting to record a credit to the player related to the "gamble" chosen.

In order that the invention may be better understood a preferred form thereof is hereinafter described by way of example with reference to the accompanying logic chart which displays diagrammatically the sequence of events and to the accompanying representation of instructions displayed on the front of the machine.

10 In the preferred form the invention is applied to a video draw poker machine of a kind well known in the art. The application of the invention to such a machine is effected by software used to programme the micro-processor/computer controlling the operation of the machine rather than the physical construction of the machine.

It is not necessary to provide full details of a particular programme in that the writing of a suitable programme is a routine task for persons skilled in the art on the basis of the accompanying logic chart.

The basic operation of the machine is described above. In the event of a player achieving a "win" the programme causes the back of a playing card to be displayed on the screen with an invitation to the player either to "gamble" all or part, for example half, of the win, or a prescribed amount or simply to take the win. Following instructions displayed on the face of the machine the player presses a button on the front of the machine to select the particular form of "gamble" that he favours and the amount he wishes to gamble. He may as an alternative decide not to "gamble" but to take the "win".

Once the player has selected a particular "gamble" the programme of the machine sets it to receive an appropriate prediction in relation to the front of the card the back of which is displayed. If the player elects

to take the "win" the "gamble" ends and the machine resets itself for a new game.

If the player, having chosen to "gamble", makes a prediction appropriate to the "gamble" that is to say for example that the colour of the face of the card is red, he presses an appropriate button. This causes the programme to "turn over" the card revealing the colour. If the colour on the card matches the colour selected by the player, the player wins twice the amount gambled. If, however, the player is wrong the amount "gambled" is lost. In the event that the player chooses a "gamble" based on the suit on the front of the card and predicts this correctly, the player wins four times the amount gambled.

The machine may be constructed to provide a variety of other "gambles" for example, as to whether the value of the card is within one or other of a specified range.

As an adjunct to the game the screen may display ten or more of the cards displayed in connection with previous "gambles", all of which appear simultaneously on the screen and from the nature of these cards a player may draw such conclusions as he wishes and use those in the selection of the particular "gamble" that he may wish to undertake.

It is considered that the possibility of making a choice among a number of "gambles" will substantially increase player's enjoyment of the use of the machine.

The claim defining the invention is as follows:-

1. A video draw poker machine of the kind described above the machine including a video screen the display on which is controlled by micro-processor/computer means, ^{controlled by a programme}
5 said micro-processor/computer means being programmed to display on the video screen a representation of a poker hand, manually operable means to enable a player to select certain of the cards displayed to be held, the programme thereafter substituting alternative cards for those not
10 held and in the event of a winning poker hand being displayed the programme acting to display the back of a playing card and providing an indication of a win and an invitation to a player to "gamble" all or a part of the win, manually operable means permitting a player to accept
15 an invitation to "gamble" or to take the win characterised in that in the event of the player accepting the invitation, operation of manually operable means enables the player to select any one of a number of possible "gambles" each being related to a different characteristic
20 of the appearance of the face of the card, the back of which is displayed, further manually operable means enabling a player to make a prediction in relation to the selected gamble, and in the event of the player making a correct prediction the programme acting to record a credit
25 to the player related to the "gamble" chosen.

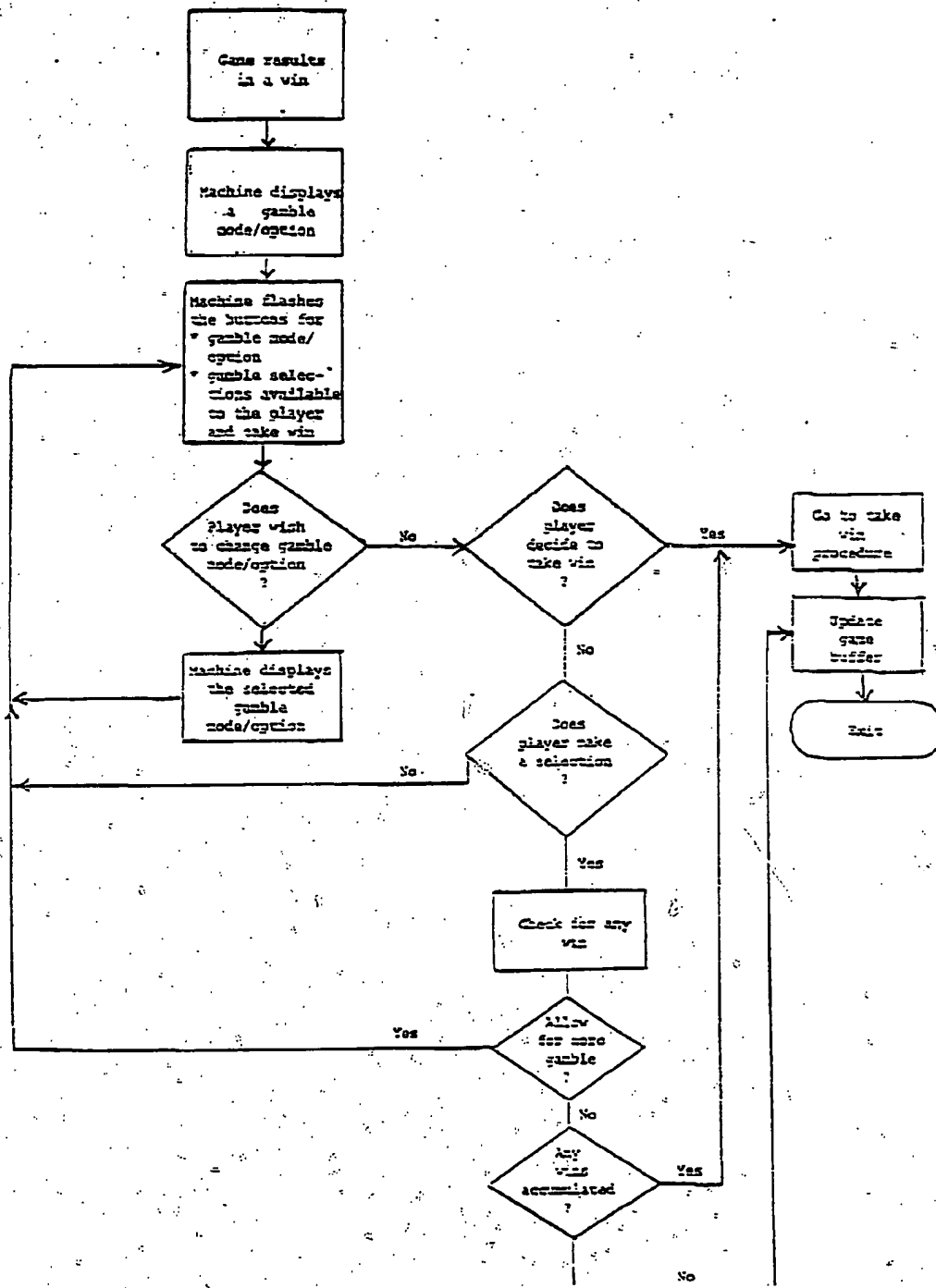
DATED this 25th day of June 1991

AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY.
LIMITED

Patent Attorneys for the
Applicant:
F.E. RICE & CO.



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2/2

AT EACH GAMBLE
YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF 3
GAMBLE STYLES

PRESS

GAMBLE CHOICE

UNTIL THE SCREEN DISPLAYS
THE GAMBLE FEATURE
OF YOUR CHOICE.

• **SUITS**

WIN PAYS GAMBLE BET X 4
(MAX BET PER GAMBLE = \$25)

• **RED OR BLACK**

WIN PAYS GAMBLE BET X 2
(MAX BET PER GAMBLE = \$50)

• **HI OR LO**

WIN PAYS GAMBLE BET X 2
(MAX BET PER GAMBLE = \$50)
HI = A-9, LO = 7-2

★ FULL DECK SHUFFLED ★
AT EACH GAMBLE

YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF
GAMBLE AMOUNTS

PRESS

FULL/HALF GAMBLE

UNTIL THE SCREEN SHOWS
YOUR CHOICE.

GAMBLE AVAILABLE UP TO 5 TIMES
FOR EACH WINNING HAND WHILE
WINNINGS ARE AVAILABLE.

MINIMUM VALUE OF CREDITS
WHICH CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR
MONEY OR LIQUOR IS \$6.

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